

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 VO-03 SCA-01 INSE-00 EB-07

COME-00 SIL-01 LAB-04 L-03 SS-15 NSC-05 TRSE-00 PA-01

PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 /063 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR PBOR MX US

SUBJECT: UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS: INS AIR REPATRIATION CONFUSION

REF A. MEXICO 8856, B. MEXICO 9414

1. DURING PAST 24 HOURS, CONFUSION HAS SPREAD RAPIDLY IN NEWS MEDIA AND AMONG GOM OFFICIALS OVER INS AIR REPATRIATION PROGRAM, WITH ALLEGATIONS SPREADING WIDELY THAT DEPARTING ALIENS ARE BEING RETURNED TO CITIES OTHER THAN MEXICO CITY UNDER SUB-HUMAN CONDITIONS (E.G. IN "CHICKEN COOP" CAGES ON FREIGHT AIR PLANES) AND DEPRIVED OF EARNINGS AND OTHER RIGHTS. OBVIOUSLY, CONFUSION ARISES DUE CONTINUATION "VOLUNTARY DEPARTURE" AIR LIFT FROM TIJUANA TO LEON AND SENSATIONALIST REPORTS GLEANED FROM THIS LATTER GROUP OF EXPELLED ALIENS.

2. IN APPARENT ATTEMPT TO CALM PASSIONS AND CLARIFY MATTERS, AT LEAST FROM GOM POINT OF VIEW, FONSEC ISSUED STATEMENT AFTERNOON JULY 22 WHICH MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

(A) GOM HAD NO PART WHATEVER IN DECISION OF U.S. GOVERNMENT TO TRANSPORT UNDOCUMENTED ALIENS TO
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INTERIOR CITIES OF MEXICO VIA COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS.

(B) ADVISED OF U.S. INTENTION IN THIS REGARD, GOM MADE KNOWN TO U.S. AUTHORITIES THAT "IF IT WERE NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT SUCH A PROGRAM" CERTAIN CONSIDERATIONS OUGHT TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. FONSEC STATEMENT THEN REPEATED VERBATIM, IN ITS ENTIRETY, MEMORANDUM DELIVERED TO EMBASSY JULY 8 AND TRANSMITTED REFTEL A.

(C) ALTHOUGH ORIGINALLY ADVISED BY USG THAT TOTAL NUMBERS TRANSPORTED WOULD NOT EXCEED FIFTEEN THOUSAND, FONSEC "RELIABLE SOURCES" HAD INDICATED THAT PROBABLY NOT MORE THAN FIVE THOUSAND COULD BE TRANSPORTED UNDER THIS PROGRAM BEFORE ITS SCHEDULED TERMINATION SEPT. 30. THEREFORE, SAID FONSEC STATEMENT, "INFLATED FIGURES CIRCULATING AMONG NEWS MEDIA ARE WITHOUT FOUNDATION".

3. COMMENT: UNFORTUNATELY, FONSEC STATEMENT MAKES NO MENTION OF TIJUANA-LEON "VOLUNTARY DEPARTURE" AIR LIFT AND THUS DOES NOT PUT TO REST WILD STORIES OF INHUMAN TREATMENT OF ALIENS. NEVERTHELESS, WE REGARD FONSEC STATEMENT AS HELPFUL UP TO THAT POINT.
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